

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the third paragraph on page 1 (lines 19-24 on page 1) with the following marked-up replacement paragraph:

Software developers face the fundamental problem that writing an enterprise-wide application is difficult, and writing a distributed application is even more difficult. In addition, an enterprise seeks to build an application as fast as possible without being locked into one platform. Ideally, enterprise developers would like to be able to write the application once and run it on all of their platforms. ENTERPRISE JAVABEANS~~Enterprise JavaBeans~~ technology seeks to provide this ability.

Please replace the last partial paragraph on page 1 and the first partial paragraph on page 2 (lines 25-31 on page 1, and lines 1-2 on page 2) with the following marked-up replacement paragraph:

The ENTERPRISE JAVABEANS~~Enterprise JavaBeans~~ (EJB) component architecture is designed to enable enterprises to build scalable, secure, multi-platform, business-critical applications as reusable, server-side components. Its purpose is to solve the enterprise problems by allowing the enterprise developer to focus only on writing business logic. The EJB specification creates an infrastructure that provides for the system-level programming, such as transactions, security, threading, naming, object-life cycle, resource pooling, remote access, and persistence. EJB also simplifies access to existing applications, and provides a uniform application development model for tool creation use using object-oriented programming techniques.

Please replace the third paragraph on page 7 (lines 20-26 on page 7) with the following marked-up replacement paragraph:

Although the electronic device 102 is shown to contain only a single processor 110 and a single bus 125, embodiments of the present invention apply equally to servers that may have multiple processors and multiple buses with some or all performing

different functions in different ways. In an embodiment, the hardware of the electronic device 102 may be implemented via a ~~WEBSHERE~~WebSphere Application Server available from International Business Machines, Inc. But, in other embodiments any appropriate electronic device may be used.

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 10 (lines 4-14 on page 10) with the following marked-up replacement paragraph:

The backend 105 includes a data store 160. In an embodiment, the data store 160 may be a relational database or database management system that stores data in tables, i.e., rows and columns of data, and performs searches by using data in a specified column or columns of one table to find additional data in another table. The rows of a table represent records (collections of information about separate items) and the columns represent fields (particular attributes about the separate items). When performing the search, the relational database matches information from a field in one table with information in a corresponding field of another table to produce a third table that combines request data from both tables. Examples of relational databases are DB2 (Database 2), and ~~ORACLE9i~~Oracle9i, although in other embodiments any appropriate relational store may be used.